

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
LUBBOCK DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA §  
§  
§  
V § CRIMINAL NO: 5:15-CR-078-C-BG  
§  
§  
§  
RICHARD LUKE ELAM (09) §

**REPORT OF ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION ON PLEA  
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

This Report of Action on Plea is submitted to the court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(3).

This case has been referred by the United States District Judge to the undersigned for the taking of a felony guilty plea. The parties have consented to appear before a United States Magistrate Judge for these purposes.

The defendant appeared with counsel, Jeff D. Nicholson, before the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge who addressed the defendant personally in open court and informed the defendant of, and determined that the defendant understood, the admonitions under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

The defendant pled guilty (pursuant to a plea bargain agreement with the Government) to Count(s) 1 of the Superseding Information, charging defendant with the violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846, that is, Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.

The undersigned Magistrate Judge finds the following:

- (1) The defendant, with the advice of counsel, has consented orally and in writing to enter this guilty plea before a Magistrate Judge subject to final approval and sentencing by the United States District Judge;

- (2) The defendant fully understands the nature of the charge and penalties;
- (3) The defendant fully understands the terms of the plea agreement;
- (4) The defendant understands his constitutional and statutory rights and wishes to waive these rights, including the right to a trial by jury and the right to appear before a United States District Judge;
- (5) The defendant's plea is made freely and voluntarily;
- (6) The defendant is competent to enter this plea of guilty;
- (7) There is a factual basis for this plea; and
- (8) The ends of justice will be served by acceptance of the defendant's plea of guilty.

Therefore I recommend that the defendant's plea of guilty be accepted and that **Richard Luke Elam** be adjudged guilty and sentence be imposed accordingly. The United States District Judge has the power to review my actions in this proceeding and possesses final decision-making authority. **Thus, if the defendant has any objections to the findings or any other action of the undersigned, the defendant should make those known to the United States District Judge on or before March 23, 2016, fourteen (14) days from today's date.**

SIGNED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.



NANCY M. KOENIG  
NANCY M. KOENIG  
United States Magistrate Judge